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ABSTRACT

A computer-based system catalogs and retrieves
electronic messages saved in a message store. The
system automatically organizes each saved message
into multiple folders based on the contents and
attributes of the message, and implements improved
methods for manually organizing messages. Unlike
prior art systems, where a message exists in only one
folder, the system uses lightweight message shortcuts
to display the message in multiple folders
simultaneously. The system preferably permits
messages to be organized by: 1) basic message and
attachment properties, e.g. date, status, attachment
type; 2) extended message properties that the user
can specify, e.g. keywords; and 3) correspondent or
bulk mail sender/recipient, with automatic separation
of bulk mail from correspondence. Performance and
usability are improved by performing reads
incrementally and by providing multiple sorting keys.